



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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U K R A I N E

U.S. Ambassador Visits Projects in Kharkiv

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor visited two USAID's projects in Kharkiv on February 28 during a trip to mark the oblast's 75th anniversary.



Ambassador Taylor with Tfh project staff

During an early morning stop at the "Together for Health" project he had an opportunity to see first hand how the program is developing. The Ambassador met with a group of family planning/reproductive health experts and government health officials, including Dr. Bohdan Volos, head of the Kharkiv Oblast health Department.

"Together for Health" (Tfh) is a five-year (2005 – 2010) \$9.75 million project that aims to improve family planning and reproductive health in Ukraine by reducing abortions, unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. The project has already launched an innovative Public-Private Partnership with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, seven manufacturers and distributors of contraceptives, and a market research firm to improve the availability of contraceptive information and products in pharmacies.

The Ambassador also visited a Legal Aid Office in Kharkiv, where he participated in a lively exchange with the resident lawyers and several current clients

whose land rights the lawyers are defending. The Legal Aid Center (LAC) program was developed as an adjunct to the USAID's Ukraine Land Titling Initiative to provide eligible clients with public education, mediation and negotiation services, and legal representation before courts and government officials.

USAID Starts a Joint Initiative with SUAL Group (Russia) in Zaporizhzhya

The giant Russian aluminum manufacturer, SUAL, began a public-private partnership with USAID called "Development of Philanthropy in Zaporizhzhya" with a conference on February 14 in the southern Ukrainian city. The event, entitled "Partnership for a Future," attracted more than 100 business and government leaders, and representatives from the NGO community and international donors.



Peter Argo (left) and Khortytsya Historical Museum Deputy Director Kostyantyn Sushko before the Dnipro Hydroelectric Station

Participants learned about current projects that international donor organizations are implementing in Zaporizhzhia, where SUAL has a large manufacturing operation, and discussed what types of philanthropic projects are suitable for the region.

Speaking at the conference, Deputy Mission

Director Peter Argo stressed that, "This undertaking ... cannot be considered either a USAID effort or a SUAL effort. If it is to succeed, it must become a common effort... To effectively combat poverty, uncertainty, instability, corruption, health problems and other issues, we need a united front."

The joint USAID-SUAL initiative is designed to create conditions for consolidating material and intellectual resources to spur community and municipal development in Zaporizhzhya, including the development of effective models for attracting and expending investments. The program will include a series of trainings for NGO representatives, local authorities, businesses and mass media to increase understanding of what social partnership entails, and the role and responsibility of each sector in community development. It will also explain how to conduct project competitions and exchange best practices with other Ukrainian cities.

In View of USAID's 15th Anniversary in Ukraine

USAID Mission Director Earl Gast hosted a Media Open House on February 22 in connection with the upcoming 15th anniversary of USAID's work in Ukraine. Leading media representatives, along with some current and former USAID staff, were given a brief overview of what the Mission is planning for its 15th anniversary. Guests also viewed a video loop showing PSAs that USAID's projects have produced over the last 15 years.



Natalia Yatsenko (left), Dzerkalo Tyzhnya business editor, sharing a laugh with Victoria Marchenko (right), USAID project management specialist

USAID/Ukraine will celebrate 15 years of partnership in Ukraine on May 12-13, 2007. The two-day event will include the launch of a

retrospective photo exhibition that will subsequently tour Ukraine, a multi-media presentation, and an exposition of current USAID projects.

Roundtable Breaks Ground for the New Law

USAID's Expanding Training and Advocacy Services Project (ETAS) organized a roundtable discussion on January 26, entitled, "Ways of Strengthening Financial Foundations of Municipal Budgets: Simplified Tax System Reform." The roundtable focused on developing proposals for a simplified tax system and introducing changes to certain elements of the current system.



Drafters of the Conceptual Intentions answering questions

Experts of the Association of Ukrainian Cities and Communities (AUC) joined experts from USAID's Municipal Budget Reform (MBR) project to present their suggestions for a simplified tax system. Specialists from Ukraine's State Tax Administration, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance, along with mayors, local budget managers, experts in local finances and small entrepreneurship took part in the discussion.

The conferees proposed a set of amendments to current legislation for a simplified tax, which should become the basis for a draft law "On a Simplified Tax System", that is being drafted by the AUC and the MBR project experts.

Upcoming Events

March 19, Reducing Stigma and Discrimination associated with HIV-infection and AIDS Project, Performance "I like to Live!", Simferopol.

March 19-20, Health Policy Initiative, Workshop for Community Mobilization Facilitators on Monitoring

and Grant Management, Kyiv.

March 19-23, Together for Health Project, Training on FP/RH for Health Workers, Chuguiv rayon, Kharkiv Oblast.

March 20, Rule of Law Project, Public discussion "Judicial reform: is it underway and who knows about it?", Simferopol.

March 21 - 22, Municipal Budget Reform Project in Ukraine, Advisory Committee Meeting on Budget Reform, Rivne.

March 22, Access to Credit Initiative, Debt Management Forum, Kyiv.

March 23, Parliamentary Development Project, Verkhovna Rada Interns Program: Policy Analysis Seminar. Lecture 11. Evaluation of Public Policy and its Integral Components. Implementation of Public Policy Analysis in Ukraine. Monitoring of Public Policy Implementation, Kyiv.

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M O L D O V A

Moldovan IT Enterprises Get Acquainted with Software Process Improvement Methodologies

At a workshop on February 15, the USAID Competitiveness Enhancement and Enterprise Development (CEED) project introduced Moldova's leading software developers to internationally-recognized software process improvement (SPI) methodologies. The workshop, the first of its kind in Moldova, was delivered by senior staff of the European Software Institute (ESI) Center in Bulgaria.

Executives and senior developers from 10 leading Moldovan IT companies listened to discussions focused on two SPI methodologies: Capability

Maturity Model Integration (CMMI), which has become the world's de facto standard for software developers, and IT Mark, a certification program developed by ESI specifically for small and medium enterprises (SME), which can place software SMEs on a pathway toward CMMI, but with benchmarks that are easier to reach and more affordable.



Senior developers from Endava, Moldova's largest software company, consider the best way to apply the CMMI development model.

Adoption of CMMI or other software development standards can facilitate access to global software development supply-chains.

Upcoming Events

March 22, Better Opportunities for Youth and Women in Moldova, Official Opening of the Social Reintegration Center for Youth, Calarasi.

March 22, Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Mobile Technical Unit Roundtable on Trafficking Prevention, Tvardita, Taraclia.

March 23, Rule of Law Program, Annual Congress of Lawyers, Chisinau.

March 23, Agribusiness Development Project (ADP), Good Agricultural Practice Course, Cahul.

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